

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 SSO-00 RSR-01 /124 W
----- 112021

P 191256 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1837

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS PRIORITY

CINSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGG- OCO PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS PRIORITY

USELMLO PRIORITY

USMISSION NATION PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0874

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, UR

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF EASTBOUND LANES AT MARIENBORN

1. DURING PROCESSING OF US CONVOY MAY 17 AT MARIENBORN SOVIET CHECKPOINT MAJOR SIENKO TOLD COMMANDER HELMSTEDT DETACHMENT THAT BEGINNING MAY 18 OR 19 BOTH EASTBOUND LANES OF AUTOBAHN WOULD BE CLOSED FOR REPAIRS OVER THREE- KILOMETER STRETCH FROM SPERRZONE TO HARBKESTRASSE BRIDGE. ACCORDINGLY, ALL TRAFFIC, CIVILAIN AND MILITARY, WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVERTED TO WESTBOUND LANES. SIENKO SAID HE REALIZED THAT THIS WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES BUT THAT THERE WAS NO OPTION. HE WAS VAGUE AS TO DURATION OF WORK BUT IMPLIED ONE TO THREE MONTHS. AS OF 1200 LOCAL MAY 19 CLOSURE HAD NOT YET BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT.

2. IN OUR VIEW, ROAD WORK IS PROBABLY LEGITIMATE AND CONNECTED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EAST GERMAN CHECKPOINT AREA SOUTH OF AUTOBAHN AND THUS
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WILL REDOUND TO OUR ULTIMATE ADVANTAGE, BUT IT WILL
CREATE PROBLEMS IN SHORT RUN. WITH ONLY ONE LANE
AVAILABLE IN EACH DIRECTION FOR THREE KILOMETERS,
THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DELAYS OF ALLIED TRAFFIC,
PARTICULARLY ON HOLIDAY WEEKENDS.

3. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES IN BERLIN, IT
HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT BRITISH CHECKPOINT COMMANDER
WILL SPEAK TO SIENKO ON BEHALF OF ALL THREE SAYING
THAT WE EXPECT SOVIETS TO TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES ARE
NECESSARY TO ENSURE FREE PASSAGE OF ALLIED TRAFFIC.
THIS WILL NOT BE PROTEST BUT WILL SIMPLY PUT SOVIETS
ON NOTICE AND PROVIDE RECORD ON WHICH TO BASE
POSSIBLE FUTURE PROTESTS OR DEMANDS.

4. USCOB CONCURS. KLEIN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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